

(1) Number of pages 26
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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1796A	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	23-5-1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

17257
1.
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

23rd May 1877, No. 1,796-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 467-A. From Lieutenant-Colonel T. E. TENNANT, Inspector-General of Jails, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 7th May 1877, No. 130.

With reference to the Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, No. 1,610, dated 1st May 1877, I have the honor to submit the following remarks.

2. It is presumed that the "punitive ration" mentioned in the above order and directed to be introduced into the Nellore Jail as a temporary and experimental measure is intended in substitution of the present punishment diet allowance authorized under Act V of 1869, and that the experiment is not to be made on the general body of convicts. If such be the intention of Government, I beg to point out that the proposal to extend the "punitive ration" to a period of one month will be in direct opposition to the standing orders of the Jail Department. ~~It is not intended to be made on the general body of convicts, but only on those who are subjected to labor of medium severity, and that the "punitive ration" shall not be given for a longer period than seven days at one time.~~

4. Should it, however, be the intention of Government to subject the general body, or even a certain number, of the prisoners to this experiment, I solicit the indulgent consideration of Government to the following remarks.

5. The scales of diet at present in force in our jails have been determined after long and large experience, and no subject in prison administration has received more close attention than the effects of food on prisoners, and as the vital returns prove that we only manage to keep our prisoners in about the same state of health in which we receive them, it is obvious that any general diminution of diet must be perilous in the extreme.

6. An unusual amount of sickness in the Central and District Jails at Coimbatore during the year 1873 induced the Government to call for a special inquiry into the subject, the results of which went to show that the infliction of the punishment of punitive diet for any period beyond two or three days is incompatible with the exaction of *bona fide* hard labor, and that half rations with labor of medium severity cannot be continued for more than seven days without, in a greater or less degree, lowering the bodily condition so as to become injurious to health.

7. So far as my observation goes the bulk of under-trial prisoners received into the jails in the distressed districts are evidently suffering from privation and insufficient food, and the excessive mortality amongst this class tends to show the impoverished condition of the people. In the month of December, with a population of 13,700 prisoners in jail, the mortality amongst convicts was 3.40 per mille, whilst amongst under-trials the death-rate was as high as 36.00 per mille. In January the death-rate amongst convicts was 5.20 per mille; amongst under-trials the mortality was 19.30. In February the mortality amongst convicted prisoners was 5.30 to 10.40 amongst under-trials, and in March the death-rates were 2.90 against 10.60.

= a result is assured of the necessity

8. During this season of distress when, owing to the prevalence of crime and the enormous increase of prisoners, our jails are much overcrowded, the necessity for keeping the prisoners strong and healthy cannot be too strongly urged. Cholera, the invariable accompaniment of famine, prevails throughout the country, and unless our prisoners are kept fairly well-fed they become more liable to disease, and if disease prevails in an overcrowded jail the loss of life must be

9. It is in no captious spirit, nor from inability to recognize the importance of testing Sir Richard Temple's experimental ration, that I submit these remarks. I am bound to express my conscientious belief that the introduction of such an experiment as is now contemplated into an overcrowded and cholera-stricken jail like Nellore will probably be attended with fatal and disastrous consequences.

No. 1,005.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue (Famine) Department with reference to docket of this department, No. 347, dated 13th April 1877.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
9th May 1877.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Offg. Chief Secretary.

No. 467-B. ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1877, No. 1,796-A.

Miscellaneous.

As the Government have abandoned the rate of wage which was it may be abandoned and orders to this effect will go to the Superintendent of the Jail at Nellore.

2. The Inspector-General of Jails will be informed through the Judicial Department that he ought not to have stopped an experiment which was authorized to be carried out after due deliberation by the Government, under the watchful care of the Superintendent of the Jail who is a Medical Officer and had himself suggested its trial.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Judicial Department.
,, the Superintendent of Jail, Nellore.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Sanitary Commissioner.
,, the Financial Department.

Ed. T. D. Ryan.

1796A

= as sent to the Secretary of the Academy

No 84

Municipal Dispensary
Chas 14th May 1899
From
To
M. E. M. Ross Esquire
Jillab Surgeon
Chas
The Dep^y Surgeon General
and Mr. Ross
Pung and St. Dist
Chas

Sir
I have the honor with re-
-ference to your No 3958 of the 10th
instant on G.O. No 1610 of the 1st May
to inform you that I have been peremp-
orily requested by the Inspector General
of Jails not to give effect to the order
of Government until the result of his
protest against it is known.
2 The delay I think a matter
for regret - matters regards the
famine and the consequences to the
people are daily becoming more
serious and the sooner the Govern-
-ment is assured of the necessity

Printed and published by the Government
Printer, Calcutta, at the Government
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NO. 457-A-407-R

G.O. 23rd May 1897, No. 1798-A

Printed by the
Government
Printer, Calcutta.

THE OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT

REVENUE

G.O. No 1877

amount of a higher ration
than 1th of grain daily for an
adult male the better. Should
the experiment suggested prove
re I fear it will do, incontestably,
that the 1th grain ration is insuffi-
cient, it may, if not longer
delayed, furnish that proof not
too late to prevent a serious injury
to the health of the people and
such avoidable mortality.

3. If on the other hand
the experiment prove that the 1th
ration is sufficient to maintain
a man on light labour in tolerable
health, the Government will be
able to act with decision, and
whatever may in future happen,
without that reproach or regret
for the past, which must arise
should a doubt exist as to the
sufficiency or otherwise of the

the amount of relief sanctioned by
Government.

4. I cannot myself see the
 slightest objection on any grounds to the
 experiment being tried in the jail nor has the
 Inspector General of jails informed me
 what his objections are.

5. It can hardly be accounted
hardship that a convicted prisoner should
be placed in a diet not sufficient for
the free labourer - while on the other
hand the experiment would be so carefully
conducted and watched that any injury
to the health of the prisoners experimented
on would be out of the question.

6. The interests involved are in
my opinion so serious and of such
magnitude as regards the welfare
both of the people and of the State that
I cannot conceive any objections which
could weigh for an instant with
me.

No. 4898

Forwarded for orders.

B. J. van Dorem

Respectfully
Believe me to be

Yours truly

I have the honor to be
Sir

Yours Obedt Servt
H. J. van Dorem
Major

1796A
3

[illegible]

We ask Mr Stokes
to not Mr Jackson
regard under trial
prisoners - indig-
ent families -
December 1897
1900

I got all A.G. this, but
in at the same time
that as the text was
suggested by the Med. Off.
in charge of the jail
was not himself have
carried out the Experiment
the Govt. did not see
I doubt that all rich

rough

Deutsche Hofen No 3514

I have been told
 that the
 I don't think it was
 ever proposed to place
 him there & put him in
 in the nature of a trial
 of the

I have just attended
 the trial of the
 man who was shot
 by mistake at the
 appearance of the prisoner
 in the court room
 there were many

article of the
 main part
 there in the court
 paid (had not very
 few captives) all

the appearance of
 what health
 fully recovered but
 & might well continue
 from the reason
 of the
 some 200 men

The contrast between
 them & the relief
 between was painful
 & demoralizing

By 2/5

The experiment ought
 to be tried out & can only
 be in a prison where
 the supply of
 the necessities of
 life of the food is
 impossible

1796/6

Revenue Department.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Read endorsement of the
Chief Secretary to Government dated 9th
May 1877 No. 105, on letter from the
Inspector General of Jails dated 7th
May 1877 No. 130, submitting ^{remarks} with
reference to the "prescriptive ration" -
directed by Government to be intro-
duced as an experimental measure
into the District Jail at Kellore.

Order thereon May 1877 No.

As the Government are about to
abandon the rate of wage which
was to be tested on the prisoners,
the experiment may be abandoned
and orders to this effect will go to
the Superintendent of the Jail at
Kellore.

2. The Inspector General of Jails
will be informed through the J. D. Dept. that he
ought

ought not ~~however~~ to have stopped
an experiment which was autho-
rized to be carried out after due
deliberation by the Government, under
the watchful care of the Superinten-
dent of the Sail who is a medical
Officer and had himself suggested
its trial.

(True Extract)

B.C.

A.P.

Add. Secy. to Govt.

To

The Inspector-General of
Sails.

17/10/77

No 17962

Passed in Council

4.0 723 May 1877

As the Govt. ~~have~~ ^{had} ~~abandoned~~ the rate of
wage which was to
be tested on the prison
the experiment may
be abandoned & order
of the Govt. will go to
the Dept of the Jail
at Bellary.

2. The Inspector Genl.
will be informed through the
of Jail's right not. The
house to have stopped
an experiment which
was authorized to
be carried out after the
deliberation of the Govt.
under the watchful
eye of the Dept of the
Jail, who is a medical
officer & has himself
suggested its trial
23/5/77 J.S.

250 to the Judicial Dept, on 23 May
or the Dept of Jail Bellary
35 to the District Officer
50 to the Secretary Commissioner of
5 the Financial Dept.

100

N 130

1796/10

Ottawamut 7 May 1877

Sir

South Col. J. E. Seaman

Inspector General of Mills

The Honble D. F. Carmichael

Chief Secretary to Government

Fort St. George

Sir

With reference to the
Proceedings of Government Revenue
Department N 1610 dated 1st May 1877
I have the honor to submit the
following remarks.

2 It is presumed that the
"imitative ration" mentioned in
the above order and directed
to be introduced into the Mill
Sail as a temporary and experimental
measure is intended in

substitution of the present prison
ment diet allowed authorized
under Act V of 1869 and that
the experiment is not to be
made on the general body
of convicts. If such be the
intention of Government, they to
point out that the proposal
to extend the "punitive ration"
to a period of ~~one~~ months will be
in direct opposition to the standing
orders of the Jail Department.

3 These rules direct that
convicts punished by restriction
of diet are to be subjected to
labour of medium severity and
that the "punitive ration" shall
not be given for a longer period
than seven (7) days at one time.

1796
4 Should it however be the
intention of Government to subject
the general body, or even a certain
number of the prisoners to this
experiment, I solicit the indulgent
consideration of Government to the
following remarks.

5 The scales of diet at
present in force in our jails
have been determined after long
and large experience and no subject
in prison administration has
received more close attention than
the effects of food on prisoners,
and as the vital returns prove
that we only manage to keep our
prisoners in about the same
state of health in which we
receive them, it is obvious that

any general diminution of diet
must be perilous in the extreme.
6. An immense amount of
sickness in the Central and Dis-
trict Jails at Coimbatore during
the year 1873, induced the
Government to call for a special
enquiry into the subject; the
results of which went to show
that the infliction of the punish-
ment of punitive diet for any
period beyond 2 or 3 days is
incompatible with the exaction
of bonafide hard labour, and
that half rations with labour of
medium severity cannot be
continued for more than 7 days
without, in a greater or less degree,
lowering the bodily condition so

as to become injurious to health.
7. So far as my observations
goes the bulk of under trial
prisoners received into the jails
in the distressed districts are
evidently suffering from privation
and insufficient food and the
excessive mortality amongst this
class tends to show the impoverish-
ed condition of the people.
In the month of December with
a population of 15700 prisoners
in jail the mortality amongst
convicts was 3.40 per mille,
whilst amongst under trials
the death rate was as high as
36.00 per mille. In January
the death rate amongst convicts
was 5.20 per mille; amongst

under trials the mortality was
17.30. In February the mortality
amongst convicted prisoners
was 5.30 to 10.40 amongst under
trials and in March the death
rates were 2.90 against 10.60.

8 During this season of
distress, when owing to the prevalence
of crime and the enormous
increase of prisoners, our jails
are much overcrowded the
necessity for keeping the prisoners
strong and healthy cannot be
too strongly urged. Cholera,
the invariable accompaniment
of famine, prevails throughout
the country and unless our
prisoners are kept fairly well

1796
fed they become more liable
to disease and when epidemic
disease prevails in an overcrowded
jail the loss of life must be
very large.

9 It is in no captious
spirit, nor from inability to
recognize the importance of
testing Sir Richard Temple's
experimental ration that I
submit these remarks. I am
bound to express my conscientious
belief that the introduction of
such an experiment as is
now contemplated, into an
overcrowded and cholera
stricken jail like Newgate
will probably be attended

with fatal and disastrous
consequences.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

J. H. H. H.

Inspector General of Jail

1872-1877-8542
found (lost)
No. 100-100-100-100

Johns

James C. Smith

Transcribed by

Thelwell & Son

Perseus (Hermes)

to the same

Sept. with wife

John A. George

Sketch of the

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Sept 11. 1877 Sat

Mrs. J. C. G.

13th April 1871.

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10/130.00

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CA 23 - Aug 11 1796

My best love —

the building room and

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protected by Post to the

May 29/75

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[illegible]

to the District of Columbia

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Mr. Johnson